

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following rewritten Abstract which appears on a separate sheet.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In a step S3, the support plate 8 is then rotated in the counterclockwise direction. Then, in a step S4, when the support plate 8 is rotated to a position at which the support plate 8 is fitted to the inner periphery 14 of the closing end portion 6b, the filter element 6 is pressed in its axial direction and then held between the support plate 8 and the cover inner wall section 9a of the support member 9. At this time, both the end portions of the filter element 6 are sealed.--